

Application of: Timothy A. Johnson  
Serial No.: 10/629,855  
Filed: July 30, 2003  
Reply to Office Action of March 6, 2007

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A method of communicating video information as the video information changes from one frame to another, comprising:

a. analyzing pixel values within a current block of the video frame information to determine pixel value frame change;

b. testing:

(i) whether a frame change in pixel value for any one of the pixels in the current block exceeds a first threshold, and

(ii) whether a second threshold number of pixels in the current block ~~exceeds~~ changed in pixel value by at least a third threshold, wherein the second threshold is at least two, and

c. if the ~~conditions~~ test of either step b.i. or step b.ii. ~~exceed the thresholds described~~ is true, then communicating information identifying the pixel values within the block.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

d. if both conditions of steps b.i. and b.ii. ~~fail to exceed the thresholds described~~ are not true, then communicating a no change condition in the current block.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 2, wherein:  
the communicated no change condition comprises communicating nothing regarding the current block; and

decoding the video information by writing current blocks for which nothing is communicated as unchanged compared to a corresponding block in a previous frame.

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Claim 4 (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein said second threshold is equal to the number of pixels in the current block.

Claim 5 (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein said third threshold is greater than one.

Claim 6 (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting comprises transmitting the information identifying the pixel values within the block to a compressor for compression prior to transmission over a communication channel.

Claim 7 (New ) A video encoder comprising:  
a pixel value analyzer analyzing pixel values within a current block of video frame information to determine pixel value frame changes;  
a comparator testing:  
    (i) whether a frame change in pixel value for any one of the  
        pixels in the current block exceeds a first threshold, and  
    (ii) whether a second threshold number of pixels in the  
        current block changed in pixel value by at least a third threshold,  
wherein the second threshold is at least two, and  
a transmitter transmitting information identifying the pixel values within the block if the comparator determines either condition b.i. or condition b.ii. is true.

Claim 8 (New) The video encoder according to claim 7, wherein the transmitter communicates a no change condition in the current block if both conditions of steps b.i. and b.ii. are not true.

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Claim 9 (New) The video encoder according to claim 8, wherein the communicated no change condition comprises a communication of nothing regarding the current block.

Claim 10 (New) The video encoder according to claim 7, wherein said second threshold is equal to the number of pixels in the current block.

Claim 11 (New) The video encoder according to claim 7, wherein said third threshold is greater than one.

Claim 12 (New) The video encoder according to claim 7, wherein the transmitter further comprises a compressor for compressing the pixel values within the block prior to transmission over a communication channel.